

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A honeycomb structure comprising:

honeycomb segments separated by porous partitions and having circulation holes through the honeycomb segments in an axial direction;

a spacer positioned between neighboring honeycomb segments of the honeycomb segments; and

a bonding layer located between honeycomb segments where the spacer is positioned and bonding the neighboring honeycomb segments,

wherein the spacer has Young's modulus in a range of 0.1 to 1.5 GPa,

wherein a ratio of area of the spacer to area of the bonding layer between respective neighboring honeycomb segments is in a range of 0.2 to 30%.
2. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1,

wherein the spacer has porosity of 35 to 90 %.
3. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 2,

wherein the spacer includes a pore-forming material.
4. (Currently Amended) The honeycomb structure according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~,

wherein the spacer is formed of ceramics.
5. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1,

wherein the Young's modulus is in a range of 0.15 to 1.2 GPa

6. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1,

wherein the ratio of area of the spacer to area of the bonding layer is in a range of 0.4 to 25 %.

7. (Original) A method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure, comprising the steps of:

positioning a spacer with Young's modulus of 0.1 to 1.5 GPa on a joining face as an outer peripheral face of a honeycomb segment which is separated by a porous partition and has circulation holes through the honeycomb segment in an axial direction, with a ratio of area of the spacer to area of the joining face in a range of 0.2 to 30 %;

plastering a bonding material on the joining face having the spacer fixed to the joining face;

stacking another honeycomb segment on the joining face to form a honeycomb-segment stacked assembly; and

applying a pressure to the honeycomb-segment stacked assembly from the outside to bond the honeycomb segment and said another honeycomb segment to each other.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure according to claim 7, wherein, as the spacer, a spacer with porosity of 35 to 90 % is used.

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure according to claim 8, wherein the spacer is controlled in porosity by a pore-forming material.

10. (New) The honeycomb structure according to claim 3,
wherein the spacer is formed of ceramics.